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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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To: John Acuff

John Allen Chalk

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September 1, 1970

Mr. John Acuff
276 E. 12th
Cookeville, Tennessee 38501

Dear John:

Wednesday night with you and Carolyn, Jack and Betty Ann, was a great event for Sue and me. Thank you so much for the open Christ-like way you and Carolyn related to Sue and me. It was a real thrill being there with the four of you and especially to see Jack's love and concern flower again. I never doubted the quality of our relationship even though at times I was very concerned about the deterioration that evidently had set in. God was at work that night and brought healing fellowship into our midst. I praise Him daily for what happened even that night.

I did not feel good about the Montgomery Bell Retreat, yet I understand many people were helped. I think the issues are so sharp and the need for clear Biblical vision so desperate that I'm sometimes de-emphasize the value of the practical, daily life. This is what Roy emphasized and I appreciate him for it. It simply isn't where I choose to fight right now. I have to learn to respect and uphold him in his peculiar ministry even as he respects and upholds me in mine. The same goes for all of us toward each other.

You need to help Walter Carlin. Relate to him all you can and especially relate to Linda personally. I am convinced that Linda does not have a Biblically nor personally genuine relationship with Christ. Please be careful that you don't reassure her in her lack of a relationship. Give them an opportunity to relate to you. I think they need what you can give. You may also be able to direct Walter in some of his reading. I am not sure Walter reads very much. Anything you can do for them will be helpful.

I do hope you and Carolyn can stay in the Broad Street Congregation. They so desperately need what you have to offer. I see no ordered direction to move when one leaves the institutional church. As long as your own personal relationship with Christ is valid, you can contribute much to the institutional church without upholding and perpetuating its falsities.

Ira Rice has gone after me in his July, 1970 "Contending for the Faith." I made the issue, along with Jimmie Lovell and Pat Boone. The paper is being sent to every church in the country. I also have been attacked in the editorial of the Christian Reporter, a newspaper for all the churches in the Fort Worth - Dallas area. This is the third time the editor of this Fort Worth journal has attacked me by name in the last two years. Please pray with me that this will not damage my relationship with the Highland church and with the Highland elders. Things are tense here. We have lost five to seven families in the last three weeks. I must continue to preach God's Word but that is dependent upon my own personal awareness and insight. I need God's wisdom. Pray that I will receive it.

I continue to pray for the effectiveness of your ministry in Cookeville and for the success of your practice there. I think it is so important that you be professionally effective in your service to mankind, as well as spiritually deep in the practice of your faith. Let me know of any way I can help you at any time.

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk

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